

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The following listing of claims replaces all listing of claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended): A method for protecting digital content, comprising:  
providing digital content organized by as a sequence of frames to a rendering unit;  
altering image content within the rendering unit in response to tags in a data stream provided thereto to the rendering unit to remove, add, or modify an item in, wherein the image content that is a portion of the digital content visible to a viewer, and wherein the alterations of the image content are not visually perceptible for real-time display, but are visually perceptible in a recorded version of the image content thereof, the step of altering image content further including detecting one of the tags in the data stream associated with a frame in [[a]]the sequence of frames, [[a]]the portion of the frame being modified from a preceding frame in the sequence to generate an altered frame; and  
utilizing the tag to access an action table to cause either the altered frame or the frame to be displayed and the sequence of frames to be displayed as unaltered only if called for by the action table.
2. (Original): The method, according to claim 1, wherein the step of altering comprises randomly selecting frames for alteration.
3. (Currently Amended): The method, according to claim 1, wherein altering comprises distorting removing at least one object visible to the viewer in from a frame.
4. (Previously Presented): The method, according to claim 1, wherein altering comprises relocating at least one object visible to the viewer in a frame.

5. (Previously Presented): The method, according to claim 1, wherein altering comprises adding at least one object visible to the viewer to a frame.
6. (Original): The method, according to claim 5, wherein the rendering unit is a graphics processing unit.
7. (Currently Amended): A device for protecting digital content, comprising:
  - a rendering unit configured to detect tags in a data stream and to associate the detected tags with commands for altering image content to remove, add, or modify an item in, wherein the image content that is a portion of the digital content visible to a viewer, and wherein the alterations of the image content are not visually perceptible for real-time display, but are visually perceptible in a recorded version of the image content thereof, the rendering unit including a tag detector for detecting the tags in the data stream, one of the tags being associated with one frame in a sequence of frames, a portion of the one frame being altered from a preceding frame in the sequence to generate an altered frame; and
  - an action table that is accessed utilized to cause either the altered frame or the one frame to be displayed and the sequence of frames to be displayed as unaltered only if called for by the action table.
8. (Original): The device, according to claim 7, wherein the rendering unit includes a table for storing symbols used when associating the detected tags with the commands.
9. (Original): The device, according to claim 8, wherein the rendering unit comprises memory for storing overlays for alteration of the image content.
10. (Original): The device, according to claim 8, wherein the rendering unit comprises a random number generator for randomly selecting when to apply the commands.
11. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the random number generator randomly selects when to apply overlays.

12. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the rendering unit comprises a decryptor.
13. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the rendering unit is configured to detect watermarks and to alter image frames in response to detected watermarks.
14. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the rendering unit detects watermarks and provides a graphical user interface in response to at least one detected watermark.
15. (Original): The device, according to claim 14, wherein the graphical user interface is provided after detecting a threshold number of watermarks.
16. (Original): The device, according to claim 15, wherein the graphical user interface provides a data entry block for entry of a key.
17. (Original): The device, according to claim 16, wherein the rendering unit is configured to down sample in response to a failure to enter an acceptable key.
18. (Original): The device, according to claim 16, wherein the rendering unit is configured to disable recording in response to a failure to enter an acceptable key.
19. (Original): The device, according to claim 16, wherein the rendering unit is configured to randomly alter the selected frames in response to a failure to enter an acceptable key.
20. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the device is a digital video camera.

21. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the device is a digital video disc recorder.

22. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the device is a compact disc recorder.

23. (Original): The recording device, according to claim 10, wherein the device is a hard disk drive recorder.

24. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the device is a digital tape drive recorder.

25. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the device is a floppy disk drive recorder.

26. - 33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1 wherein a rendering unit causes display of the altered frame upon detection of the tag unless a proper response is entered by the user.

35. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 34 including the step of applying the tag to a randomizer to randomly apply or ignore the tag or send the tag to the action table.

36. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1 including the step of, in response to the detection of the tag, invoking a graphical user interface (GUI) to allow a user to enter a key to prevent the action table from being accessed so that the unaltered frames are not displayed.